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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

July 1, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

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**Re: MB Docket No. 03-15
Request for Waiver of the July 1, 2005 Replication/ Maximization
Interference Protection Deadline
WOWT-DT (Facility ID No. 65528), Omaha, Nebraska
Gray Television Licensee, Inc.
FRN: 0002-4670-22**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Gray Television Licensee, Inc., the licensee of WOWT-DT, Omaha, Nebraska, its attorneys present this request for waiver of the July 1, 2005 Replication/ Maximization interference protection deadline for this station.

Pursuant to the Commission's order in the *Second DTV Periodic Review*, MB Docket No. 03-15 and the public notice released on June 15, 2005, a waiver of the deadline is requested because circumstances beyond the station's control will prevent WOWT-DT from commencing digital operations in conformance with its construction permit by the July 1, 2005 deadline. As set forth in greater detail below, WOWT-DT has diligently pursued a timely build out of its digital facilities. However, a series of events in the final weeks of build out has worked to prevent completion of the facility by July 1. Barring further unforeseen circumstances, WOWT-DT currently expects that it will complete the digital build out in the next week.

WOWT-DT began low power digital operations pursuant to Special Temporary Authority in October 2002 and has operated continuously since that time. WOWT-DT, in preparation for the build out of its full digital facility, timely ordered and received the antenna and transmitter needed for full power operations on June 13. The tower crew arrived promptly thereafter to begin installation on June 14. Unfortunately, on June 15th it was discovered that the antenna mounts delivered were constructed with the wrong angle. Immediately, the station engineer called and ordered replacement mounts which arrived a week later, on June 23rd. The tower crew was able to return the same day to re-commence installation. Since June 23rd, the site has been plagued with dangerous weather including high winds and thunderstorms, making it too dangerous for the tower crews to work for more than short periods of time. Finally, late on June 28, the weather calmed long enough for the tower crew to raise the antenna. But, on June 29th,

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the harsh weather returned, forcing the crews off the tower. Now, the tower crew needs approximately two more days on the tower to orient the antenna to the correct angle and complete the necessary connections. Then one more day is needed to pressurize and sweep the antenna.

WOWT-DT has worked diligently to build its full power digital facilities and, but for circumstances beyond its control in the form of faulty antenna mounts and severe weather, WOWT-DT would have been operational by the July 1 deadline. Currently, if the weather cooperates, WOWT-DT can complete its build out and turn on its full power digital facilities in the next week. Therefore, WOWT-DT respectfully requests this waiver of the July 1, 2005 interference/maximization deadline in order to complete the construction of its digital facilities. The construction of these facilities was delayed by circumstances beyond WOWT's control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Stewart" followed by a stylized flourish or set of initials.

Joan Stewart

cc: Mr. Shaun Maher, FCC, MB, VSD
Robert A. Beizer, Esq.
Mr. Frank Jonas (LPF)